**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The following is a complete listing of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) An escape mask assembly that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, comprising,

A. a mask in the form of a hood flat-foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, said mask consisting essentially of:

1. a single bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a filter assembly capable of filtering contaminated air or particles disposed in a wall of the bag, and,

3. an exhalation valve disposed in the wall of the bag, and

B. at least one separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means, not connected to the bag, to adjust and seal the hood around the neck, such that the exhalation valve is opposite nose and mouth of a user, and air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum,

the single bag and the at least one separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means defining within the single bag a single minimum air space between the user and the bag wall.

2. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the transparent plastic film material is made of a laminate of more than one plastic material.

Claims 3-5 (canceled).

6. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the hood is

transparent only on the part that will be worn opposite the eyes, mouth and nose.

Claim 7 (canceled).

8. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the filter assembly is heat sealed onto the bag.

9. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the filter assembly is a multilayered filter assembly containing at least one filter layer containing an antiseptic effective against microorganisms and at least one filter layer containing active charcoal.

10. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the filter assembly comprises an activated charcoal filter layer sandwiched between two filter layers containing an antiseptic that destroys microorganisms.

11. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the antiseptic material is selected from the group consisting of clorhexidine salt and cetylpyridinium chloride.

12. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the filter is in the area of the nose and mouth of someone wearing the mask.

13. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 9, wherein the antiseptic filter layers are constructed and arranged to filter out particles greater than 2 microns.

Claim 14 (canceled).

15. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the exhalation valve is embedded in the filter assembly.

16. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, which is constructed and arranged such that the exhalation valve is in the area opposite the lips of someone wearing the mask.

Claim 17 (canceled).

18. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1,

wherein the separate sealing means comprises an elastic band.

19. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the separate sealing means comprises two elastic bands.

20. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 18, wherein the band is of a size and strength to achieve a good seal and still avoid choking the wearer when placing the band around a neck.

Claims 21-22 (canceled).

23. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, that can be turned inside out forming a bag after removal from the head, so that the contaminated outside surface will now face inwards.

Claims 24-26 (canceled).

27. (currently amended) An escape mask assembly that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, comprising,

A. a mask in the form of a hood flat-foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, consisting essentially of:

1. a single bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a connection means in a wall of the bag, constructed and arranged for connection to a filter cannister or to a source of fresh air,

3. an exhalation valve in the wall of the bag forming part of the mask, and

B. separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means, not connected to the bag, to adjust and seal the hood around the neck, such that the exhalation valve is opposite nose and mouth of a user, and air space within the hood is

reduced to a minimum,

the single bag and the at least one separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means defining within the single bag a single minimum air space between the user and the bag wall.

28. (previously presented) A method of enabling one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical or biological agents or combination of these, comprising:

a) providing a foldable hood escape mask with separate circumferential elastic sealing means as in claim 1,

b) unfolding the hood and placing it over the head and neck,

c) stretching the separate elastic sealing means over the hood and pulling it over the head around the neck, and

d) adjusting and sealing the hood around the neck by manipulating the hood and elastic means so that the exhalation valve is opposite the lips and mouth and the air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum.

29. (previously presented) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the exhalation valve is disposed in the filter assembly.

30. (new) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the mask is flat-foldable to a thickness in a range of about 1-2 cm.

31. (new) A mask assembly as in claim 1, wherein the mask as folded has dimensions of about 10-12.5 cm x 9-11 cm x 1-2 cm.

32. (new) An escape mask assembly that enables one to breathe filtered air in the presence of contaminated air containing smoke, unidentified particles, chemical and/or biological agents or combinations of these, comprising,

A. a mask in the form of a hood flat-foldable to pocket size that when unfolded can cover the entire head, said mask

consisting essentially of:

1. a single bag made of transparent plastic film material impermeable to gases,

2. a filter assembly capable of filtering contaminated air or particles disposed in a wall of the bag, and,

3. an exhalation valve disposed in the wall of the bag,

B. at least one separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means, not connected to the bag, to adjust and seal the hood around the neck, such that the exhalation valve is opposite nose and mouth of a user, and air space within the hood is reduced to a minimum,

the single bag and the at least one separate circumferential elastic sealing and adjusting means defining within the single bag a single minimum air space between the user and the bag wall, and

a pouch, wherein the mask is flat-folded and sealed in the pouch with the at least one elastic sealing and adjusting means.

33. (new) A mask assembly as in claim 32, wherein the mask and the at least one elastic sealing and adjusting means are sealed in the pouch under vacuum.